Remarks

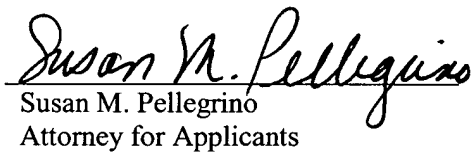
By way of this Preliminary Amendment, claims 41-44 are pending. Claims 1-40 have been cancelled, and new claims 41-44 have been added. These claim amendments, cancellations, and additions are being made solely for purposes of filing this continuing application. Applicants submit that these claims are supported by the application as filed. Additionally, the specification is being amended to acknowledge priority of this continuing application to U.S.S.N. 10/253,215.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that the subject matter of the pending claims is patentable and that the instant application should accordingly be allowed. If the Examiner believes that a conversation with Applicants' attorney would be helpful in expediting prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (203) 812-6450.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 15, 2004



Susan M. Pellegrino
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 48,972

Bayer Pharmaceuticals Corporation
400 Morgan Lane
West Haven, CT 06516
(Tel) (203) 812-6450
(Fax) (203) 812-6459